

West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

*Robertson*  
7

Subject Commerce & Industry (Coal)

Date 2/20/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

Date Research Taken 2/17, 19/41

Typist Samuel G Smith

Date Typed 2/20/41

Source N.W Clark Hillsboro. W. Va  
Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va.

Date Filed \_\_\_\_\_



120/41

In 1812 Sheldon Clark of the Levels took up land on Briery Knob and shortly after discovered coal this section is about 4400 feet above sea level, the next thing to do was open this coal up so with the help of Johny B Kennison of Hillsboro and George Lee of Millpoint they built a road from the forks of the road known as the crossroads to the coal bank on Briery Knobb, Sherman, Peter, Alvan, Henry and Preston Clark helped build the road they were sons of Sheldon Clark.

This was a drift mine and the first coal mined there was wagoned to The Little Levels to be used by farmers, stores and by Blacksmiths in their shops, in later years this was operated by Ellis McCarty, K.O Wade and Nick McCoy they having secured a contract with Smith & Whiting who were working for The St. Lawrence Boom & Mfg. Co of Ronceverte who were Manufacturing the white pine of Pocahontas County on the East side of the Greenbrier River, McCarty, Wade and McCoy furnished Smith & Whiting near 150 tons of coal for which they received from \$ 12. to \$14.00 a ton delivered to them at Laurel Run where they were operating at that time this was something like 1884 & 85. *For their log engine named Jess*

The next mining was done by George Walton as he rented it for a period of five years selling the coal he mined to the Blacksmiths, to stores and for use in private homes after his contract was out Kit Thomas and Norvel W Clark operated the mine in the fall of the year for some two years and after that the mine layed idle for a number of years but in 1934 or 35 S.C Bartholomew leased the mine he of Hillsboro he had the mine reopened track was layed and the coal mined and carted out over this track by hand he employed from 3 to 4 men the year around using more men during the rush season the Government owned land beyond the mine so the C.C.C built a good road to the mine Bartholomew furnishing some trucks when the road was completed this mine did a good business as Bartholomew operated two trucks in the hauling of coal to the many sections of the county Richard Arbogast of Millpoint and Hubert Miller of Hillsboro driving for him, this coal was sold locally to stores, private homes and a vast amount was sold to the Board of Education and was delivered to the many schools

Commerce And Industry. S.G Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.  
Coal

of Pocahontas County especially The Little Levels schools.

Bartholomew paid a royalty of 20 cts. per ton to the Clark heirs. The slack or fine coal was used in burning lime as Bartholomew had a draw kiln at the foot of Droop Mountain which he operated in connection with the coal mine this kiln was on the H.W Beard farm where there is an abundance of limestone of high analysis, and here they put out thousands of tons of burned lime both in the rock and slacked lime that was bought by the farmers of Pocahontas County, Bartholomew employed from 3 to 5 men during the summer months besides his truckers.

The Briery Knob land was sold in 1939 to the United States Of America but reserving the coal, oil gas and other mineral rights and at this time Bartholomew's contract had expired and since that time the mine has been idle as the steel was all taken up and disposed of but this mountain is full of high grade coal and no doubt when other fields are exhausted this mine will be opened up again.

Information. N.W Clark. Hillsboro. W. Va.

Court Records .Marlinton. W. Va.

7  
West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry  
Iron Ore-

Date X 4/12/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

Date Research Taken 4/9, 10, 11/41

Typist Samuel G Smith

Date Typed 4/12/41

Source Mr. & Mrs James Reed. Huntersville.  
W. Va.

Date Filed

Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va.

Calvin W Price.     "     "     "





and Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County.

- Greenbrier Ore Company.-

41 In July 22 1940 this company was Incorporated, its principal offic-

es in the Capital City Building in Charleston, and to date they have work-  
ed in both Pocahontas And Greenbrier County. Their charter for the following  
to mine strip or process all kinds of minerals, coal and other surface and  
subsurface products including Iron Ore, Manganese, Coal, Oil and Gas.

The incorporators were Rush, Esther M and A Rush Meadows all of  
and A.V Hunter of Marlinton. W. Va.  
Charleston. W. Va. and during 1940 and 41 they were operating on and near Brow-  
ns Mountain on the farms of James Reed, Raymond and Sterl Shinaberry and the  
Amos McLaughlin place.

The equipment used was a steam shovel a bull dozer and a drill  
they having contracted the hauling of the Ore. It was trucked to Marlinton  
and there ground and made ready for the smelter that was constructed to  
make a test of its purity, in making this test they filled the makeshift  
smelter furnace with a mixture of iron ore, limestone and coal this was  
called a smelter furnace, when the test was finished they had a pile of  
iron of varying degrees of perfection and purity but but they jumped at a  
magnet in lively fashion. This test was made in March 1941 another test  
will be made with a 20 foot stack of masonry construction.

Iron Ore is found in many sections of Pocahontas County but  
especially is this true on the eastern part of the Greenbrier River espec

in Browns Creek and Browns Mountain, The Buckley Mountains extending to Beaver Creek, Knapps Creek and extending to Frost and beyond. Oscar Oconnel is prospecting in the Beaverlick Mountains and has been since 1940.

If Iron Ore is found to <sup>be</sup> in paying quantities Pocahontas County will again have a boom like she had during the lumber operations that took place from 1880 to 1925.

Pocahontas County is rich in natural resources as we find coal in many sections of the county especially the northwestern part as there is coal on Cheat, Gauley, Elk, Black, Mountains some of which has been opened up but the greater part has never been opened up for the simple reason it is most all found back a considerable distance from the R R and the hard road therefore until the other fields play out Pocahontas Countys coal no doubt will not be opened up to a very great extent until that time, coal is also found and has been mined on Briery Knob,

It is hoped there is oil in Pocahontas County, but in all the drilling none have been successful as yet as they have drilled in many sections of the county but most of this was done on Williams River some time ago but they plugged up the holes and left.

Our timber is practically gone and it is hoped someone will come in and develop the coal, iron and any other resources of county.

Force & Industry. S.G Smith Pocahontas County.

is the general belief that John Whitmire had the first circular

mill in operation in Pocahontas County, this operation took place at the

mouth of Knapps Creek sometime in the 80 s .

Inf. J.B Buckley. Buckeye. W. Va.

William Perry had an up and Down mill 2 miles from Huntersville about 1890  
on Cummings Creek.

Inf. R. L Syms. Huntersville. W. Va.

66

Henry McCormick is supposed to be the first man that filed a band saw  
this was during the operation of the White pine by the St. Lawrence Boom & Mfg.  
Co. that had their mill at Ronceverte but got the logs in Pocahontas County.

Inf. J.B Buckley. Buckeye. W. Va.

March 20, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin  
Marlinton, W. Va.

-1-

Pocahontas County

Chapter 5-- Section 3

I learn from some of the writings of Mr. Andrew Price that he had made two visits to the flint quarries or flint pits on Stamping Creek, near Mill Point. These workings are in sight of the State highway known as the Seneca Trail on Mr. Tom Beard's farm about a mile and a half back of his residence, in a fine blue grass pasture. There are several hundred of the pits.

The most remarkable thing is that part of the range that has been called the Rich Garden for the past one hundred or so years. It is a pasture now but Mr. William Beard farmed it for a number of years. Though the land has been plowed many times, the pits are plain to be seen. At first sight it looks like a place that had been a village, where houses had been set close together walls touching, and under each house there had been a cellar. This little hollow owes its great fertility to the disintegration of the limestone, and there can be little doubt but that a large number of boulders or flint nodules were deposited there and that the Indians worked the land to a depth of some ten or twenty feet to get the flint.

Nearby are piles of round river sandstone or hammer stones and Mr. Price says that near these flint quarries these hammer stones or nut crackers are invariably found. M. D. Dunlap who lived on Stamping Creek said that these hammer stones were to be found in great quantities there.



Handwritten: West Virginia Writers' Project

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce And Industry

Date 5/10/41

Research Worker Samuel G Smith

Date Research Taken 5/7,8,9/41

Typist Samuel G Smith

Date Typed 5/9,10/41

Source C.W Price. George Hefner &  
Viola Kee & T.S McNeel Marlinton.W.Va.

Date Filed \_\_\_\_\_

W.G McKeever & Nancy A McNeill Buckeye.W.Va.

Maggie Ruckman, J.L McNeel & Anna Wallace Millpoint.W.Va.

R.W Brown Greenbank.W.Va.

W.Va. Geological Survey. Paul Price.



*Continued from last week*  
Broad Ford Sandstone coming from the Jerico Flat and the Kee Flats

near the top of Price hill were used in the Court-House also the piers of the old covered bridge across the Greenbrier at Marlinton came from Jerico and Kee Flats.

About 1775 John Bruffey came to America from Ireland he having learned the stone mason trade before coming to this country and it was he and his ancestors that did most of the stone work in Pocahontas County in the latter part of the 17th century and the 18th he and his sons were noted for their fine stone work and it was John Bruffey with the assistance of his sons John, Patrick, and Mark that built the rock house for Jonathan McNeill near the entrance of McClintic Farms on Swago Creek, they lived in the Swago Community at that time. John Bruffey was a noted stone worker and today you find many of the tombstones that were erected from 1775 to 1807 were made by him from rock from various parts of the county but the most of them came from Bruffeys Creek you find these stones in the McNeel cemetery in the Little Levels also at the Ruckman Cemetery above Millpoint and at the Cloonan or Kee graveyard on the Kee Flats. He also made what was known as grave rocks cut out of our native sandstone, the shape of a casket. These were placed over the grave and made a shelter from the storms and today you find some of these rocks at the McNeel Cemetery between Millpoint and Hillsboro, we no doubt would have more of his work to

Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

ire but he met a sudden death at Millpoint in 1807, he and his family at that time lived at Swago now known as Buckeye and he took a grist of corn to Millpoint to the mill for the family bread supply and it was told the writer by an informant and relative that he was watering his horse when a deer jumped from the bank of the creek into the water and frightened his horse causing him to be thrown off hitting his head on a rock causing almost instant death, his sons followed this profession for many years and Murry Bruffey son of younger John Bruffey traveled about over the county making monuments and today you find some of his work in most of the older graveyards started years ago.

Patrick Bruffey located in the northern part of Pocahontas County near Greenbank, this was about 1822 he erected a grist mill getting the mill stones above Pine Grove on Mill Stone Run or Rileys Creek above Pine Grove these stones are still in use in the North Fork Mill, Bruffey later became Sheriff of Pocahontas County, he died 1853.

A fort was built of native sandstone at the forks of North Fork and Deer Creek about 1775 for the protection of the settlement from the indians in later years the foundation rock and the chimney rock were moved by Peter Warwick and used in dwellings of the North Fork territory in later years.

George Overholt of Buckeye was a stone mason built hundreds of cellars and chimneys out of our native sand rock back in the 80s and up in the 90s most of these rock were taken from quarries in the Xee Flats either the Fleming

Writers' Project  
Force and Industry. Samuel G. Smith Hillboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County.  
Quarry, the Lightner quarry or on Price Run known as Jerico Flats, what is  
said to be the oldest cut <sup>stone</sup> chimney in this section of the county is in the  
Kee Flats built about 1800 by George Kee who came from Tyrone Ireland in  
1780 he built a double log house and had this chimney built from rock from  
the Flemings Quarry now owned by John McNeill after his passing his son John  
John lived in the log house which was burned during the war about 64 and to-  
day this chimney is in use at the same location being rebuilt in 1935 by Ge-  
orge Hefner this property is owned by the decendants of George & John Kee  
<sup>namely</sup> Viola Kee and Middie McLaughlin. On the Kee Mountain is a sandstone quarry of  
thinner rock that have been worked out by stone mason for hearth rock that  
were used with the old fireplace so common in all the older houses of Pocaho-  
ntas County and especially the ones of the rural sections.

George Hefner who lives on Elk Mountain learned the Stone Mason tra-  
de when quite a young man working with George Overholt he has built 113 sand  
rock chimneys to this time and has made and erected some 10 to 12 tombstones  
to the Hefners the rock used came from Elk Mountain and the farm of A.W. Lig-  
htner of near Buckeye. William C McNeill also cut tombstones from our native  
sandrock he lived on Dry Creek of Swago these stones or markers were made about  
1900 and some of them are up in the cemetery at the lower church at Buckeye.

William and Price McComb built the stone house at the McNeel Mill  
property at Millpoint for Sampson Mathews or possibly before this time.



Merce & Industry Samuel G. Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.  
Sandstone both of the cut rock and creek rock type have been used very  
extensively in W. Va. and especially in Pocahontas County in building rock or st.  
one houses these rock are used for the outer walls, some of these houses are  
found at our state parks.

X Much of Pocahontas Countys secondary road system is made from sand ro  
that is covered with slate and shale which is found in many sections of the Co  
county especially at Huntersville and Frost where our best shale is found, the s  
ate road from Marlinton to Greenbank is made of gravel known as Chert that was  
taken from the farms of Sherman Gibson at Frost and W.H Barlow at Huntersvi

State route 219 known as Seneca Trail between Hillsboro and Millpoi  
was made of limestone this distance is 2 mile and this stretch of road is s  
to be the longest stretch of straight road in the state.

X Pocahontas County has a sandstone on Droop Mountain that is a good  
glass sand remarkably pure sand, other sand found in the county is not as p  
but has been used very extensively in cement work especially in R R bridge  
piers, sidewalk construction, the bridge across the Greenbrier at Marlinton  
Buckeye were both made with Pocahontas sand and river gravel, the sidewalk  
the town of Marlinton are mostly made of sand and gravel taken from the be  
the Greenbrier River.

X Pocahontas County has limestone, both the Patton and Union are com  
atively pure that could be made into Portland cement. This rock is found near

the head of Locust Creek and scattered over a greater part of Little  
levels and sections of Swago Creek therefore our rock formations hold a  
great future in both a commercial and industrial way as much of them are un-  
developed largely because there is lack of men that follow the stonemason work  
as the many buildings and walls along the state roads attract the attention of  
tourists from outside the state and they marvel at the beautiful scenery in  
our high mountain peaks covered with rock cliffs and trees, these areas are  
covered with wild flowers and other plant life that helps make our county one  
of the most beautiful counties in the state, with much of her natural resources  
undeveloped.

In many sections of Pocahontas County you find shale and clay suitable  
for the manufacture of brick and tile the richest section of this formation  
is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles southwest of Buckeye, however it is found on Browns Mountain and on  
the west fork of the Greenbrier River north of Durbin to the Randolph County  
line. The true fire clay that resists high furnace temperature has never been  
discovered in this county however they use a red clay in the building of cut  
stone cellars that when dry becomes very hard and holds the rock in the wall  
many of such cellars are found over Pocahontas County especially at the old  
homesteads in the rural sections.

Pocahontas County has many mineral springs the ones most used are the  
Sweet Pritchard spring or artesian well just below Dunmore from this spring

ed to Marlinton to many people as their main drinking water this water is principally calcium, magnesium, and sulphur. Minnehaha Springs the largest of our mineral springs has been developed into a summer resort and known far and near for its swimming pool, this pool along with the hotel attract many people from this state and from outside as the water is pure with very high mineral purity and content. The Droop Mountain Spring located on the eastern end of Droop Mountain and owned by Remus Cutlip has been used by many people in the county as well as many from outside the county and state and many people report cures from this water in many internal disorders. Most of our mineral springs lack development while others lack roads to take mineral water seekers to them therefore our mineral springs are very much undeveloped save for the ones mentioned that have given results.

Information. C.W Price. Marlinton. W. Va.

George Hefner.     "     "

Viola Kee.         "     "

W.G McKeever.     Buckeye. W. Va.

Nancy A McNeill.     "     "

Maggie Ruckman.   Millpoint. W. Va.

Sketches from R.W Browns history of Greenbank community.

W. Va. Geological Survey. By Paul Price.

T.B McFeel. Marlinton. W. Va.

J.L McFeel and Anna Wallace Millpoint. W. Va.